(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken to remove the unauthorised hawkers from the premises and scatter the Railway vending stalls to the walls of the concourse of the Railway station thereby to provide passage for the passengers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Regular drives are conducted from time to time to prevent entry of unauthorised hawkers and beggars in trains and at stations premises. In addition, Task Force Team comprising commercial and Government Railway Police/Railway Protection Force personnel is also deployed at all important stations/ trains including at Howrah station to prevent entry of unauthorised hawkers/vendors to the station premises. As a result of 437 checks conducted at Howrah station premises and trains during the period April to June, 1997, 62 unauthorised hawkers and venders have been arrested and prosecuted. Besides, some catering stalls have been removed from the south concourse to make room for free movement of passengers.

High Power Transmitter at Manpad

1348. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to instal High Power Transmitter at Manpad in Kannaur district of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) A High Power TV Transmitter (HPT) is envisaged to be set up in replacement of the existing Low Power TV Transmitter (LPT) at Cannanore in Kannur district of Kerala. A suitable site has been acquired at Mangattuparamba for the proposed HPT project at Cannanore. The actual implementation of the said HPT project would, however, depend upon approval of the scheme by the competent authority, subject to availability of resources and infrastructural facilities required for the purpose.

New PLF Norms for Liquid Fuel Base PP

1349. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item under the caption "New PLF norms to hit liquid fuel based power projects" appearing in the "Business Standard" dated 9-7-1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the likely adverse impact of the proposed revision in PLF norms on operation/profitability/economic viability of the liquid fuel based projects; and

(d) the details of representation received in this regard and action taken/proposed thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has laid down revised opertional norms, including Plant Load Factor (PLF), for Gas, Coal and liquid fuel based power stations. After considering representations received from various quarters. CEA had decided in May, 1997, that these norms will apply to only those projects, who are not able to submit their complete Detailed Project Reports in acceptable form, i.e., complete in all respects as per the requirements of the CEA on or before September 30, 1997.

[Translation]

Illegal Public Telephone Booths

1350. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether illegal public telephone booths are being run with the nexus of employees of telephone department in the various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action against them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the manner in which such activities are proposed to be checked?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) The information is being colleceted and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

Out of Order Telephone Connections

1351. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of telephone connections under the Exchange 628, Nehru Place, New Delhi are out of order for the last couple of months;

(b) if so, the details of fault in the system;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far;

(d) whether the telephone bills of such consumers have been accordingly appropriate; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Majority of faults are cleared within prescribed norms, although sometimes there is some delay in fault rectification due to long spans of dropwire, cable faults, subscriber reasons etc. No faults are, however, allowed to continue for months together.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) As per departmental rule, rent rebate is allowed to the subscriber whose telephone remains out of order continueously for 7 days or more. This rule is followed in all areas of MTNL, Delhi.

(e) Question does not arise in view of (d) above.

New Telephone Exchanges in Bihar

1352. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision for setting up of telephone exchanges in Bihar was taken in the last year as per information given in the annual report of the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of telephone exchanges set up in Bihar so far; and

(d) the number of telephone exchanges likely to be set up during 1997-98 alongwith locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) There is no mention of targets for setting up of new exchanges in the last year's annual report. However, there was a plan to set up new telephone exchanges where registered demand was 10 or more in Bihar.

(c) The number of telephone exchanges set up in Bihar during 1996-97 is 35.

(d) The number of telephone exchanges likely to be set up during 1997-98 alongwith their locations is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

New Telephone Exchanges likely to be set up during 1997-98

S. No.	Name of Telecom Distt.	Location
1	2	3
1.	Patna	Sampat Chak Dhanaura
2.	Ranchi	Bano Chainpur Jaldega Basia Bielwa Kurdeg
3.	Arrah	Narhi Chandi Tarari Pratapsagar Krishnasagar
4.	Bhagalpur	Bhikhanpur Kalajore Chandan
5.	Chhapra	Derni Maker Inshwapur
6.	Darbhanga	Alinagar Ghanshyampur Ladania Garhpura Bithan Khodabanpur
7.	Gaya	Kawacol BakeyBazau Roh Orhanpar Gurua
8.	Jamshedpur	Mango Kadma Hatgamaria Raj Nagar
9.	Katihar	Saidpur Rauta (Baisi)
10.	Munger	Rampur
11.	Sasaram	Satwarwa
12.	Hazaribagh	Sayal Hunterganj
13.	Dumka	Fatehpur Mohanpur
14.	Muzaffarpur	Musahari Benibad Basdeopur Chandel Mazorganj (Mubarakpur) Sarfuddinpur

[English]

Non-Functioning of Office of Doordarshan and AIR at Guwahati

1353. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a seperate zonal office of the Engineering Wing of D.D. and AIR network for North East Region was created and established at Guwahati in December, 1995 after bifurcating the combined zonal office Calcutta;